

A. Cox and I ran the generator and the Heath trap at Martinhole Woods on the evening of September 6th, and most of the normal stuff came in, but just as we were about to pack up at 11.30 p.m. a small geometer flew on to the edge of the sheet—an *Acasis viretata* Hübn. and a new species for me. A *Paradiarsia glareosa* Esp. came to light in Hall woods, Langdon Hills on September 27, and another to the trap at Mucking the same night.

An *Antitype flavicincta* Schiff. appeared in the trap at home on the nights of October 2nd and 5th. A very late *C. amata* came to the garden trap on October 24, and another very late moth was a *Crambus pratellus* L. at Mucking on November 1.

David More had told me of the scheduled meeting at Stanford-le-Hope of the South London (now the British) Entomological and Natural History Society on Sunday, 15th September. It was the unforgettable week-end of the torrential rains which caused floods everywhere, so I did not have much hope of anyone turning up at the station at the appointed time of 9.30 a.m. Anyway, I clumped down there in my water-proofs through the rain, saw a man staring closely at the moths on the windows and walls of the station up-line side, and I asked quietly: "South London?" He shook hands and introduced himself as Mr. Eric Bradford, who I later discovered to be the man who does the excellent micro illustrations in the A.E.S. Bulletins. He called two more men over and introduced them as Mr. Barry Goater (President of the B.E.N.H.S.) and his son, Ricky. I thought how keen they were to drive down all the way from the Borehamwood area through the dreadful rain to attend a field meeting. I went home and fetched some pillboxes and we drove to Mucking, parking the car by the level crossing, and walked to Musket marsh past the Church. The little path across the marsh was awash in several places, torrential rain was still lashing down and a spectacular thunder storm raged overhead. In spite of all this, we went looking for larvae of *Cucullia asteris* Schiff. on the sea aster, but the weather was just too much and we gave up. I invited them to my home where we did some armchair entomology; a memorable occasion in a fairly good year.

REFERENCES

South, R. 1961. *Moths of the British Isles*.

Tutt, J. W. 1892. *The British Noctuae and their Varieties*, Vol. II.

Collecting Round Toramina — Sicily

By GERHARD HESSELBARTH and ANTHONY VALLETTA

For so many years we have been discussing a collecting trip together sometime, somewhere! At last this much desired dream came true. We met at Taormina, Sicily, in the late evening of Easter Sunday, April 7, at the Pensione Holiday somewhat discouraged of a successful hunt, as the previous days had been wet and gloomy, and we were still afraid that the following days would be just as bad. In fact, the following Monday and Tuesday were extremely wet.

This was our first meeting after many years of correspondence and so we had a lot to talk about. However, we both hoped for the best.

The morning of Wednesday the 9th gave us some hope, as the sky was clear and Mount Etna was very clearly visible with smoke coming

out of the still snow-covered crater. Immediately after breakfast, we started off to the slopes of Castel Mola, only half-an-hour walk from our Pensione, and by 9 a.m. we were with our nets in our hands ready for the first catch. This locality is very rich in flora: we admired the gorgeous golden colours of the *Ferula nodosa*, *Spartium junceum*, *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Oxalis cernua*, *Ruta chalepensis*, *Phlomis fruticosa*, *Calendula arvensis*, *Brassica nigra* and *Biscutella laevigata*, just to mention a few, on a green carpet of different grasses dotted with a variety of colours mostly of the different species of *Trifolium* and *Anthyllis* against a back-ground of *Opuntia ficus-indica*, *Artemisia vulgare* and *Teucrium fruticans*.

As the morning got warmer, the thirsty butterflies were soon on the wing to get the first sip of nectar after so many days of fasting. The first on wing was the *Vanessa cardui* L. which was still on the move flying northwards. We may add at this stage that a mass migration of this butterfly was noticed in Malta on the 26th March and the following days; during our stay in Sicily it was the most common butterfly we came across in every locality we visited. Hesselbarth who was in Taormina a week earlier observed this butterfly flying northwards without stopping at the rate of two per minute at a height of one metre above the ground. *Pieris brassicae* L. and *P. rapae* L. were quite common. A few *P. mannii* and *Euchloe ausonia* soon appeared, as well as *Anthocaris cardamines turritiferens* Vrtz. and *Glaucopsyche alexis* Poda. Battered *Pararge megaera* L. were also seen and *G. cleopatra* L. was noticed laying on the leaves of its foodplant, *Rhamnus alaternus*. Only one *Zerynthia hysipyle*, which we missed, was seen and the last butterfly taken that day was a *Cupido minimus* Fuessl. By 11 a.m. the weather became gloomy again. That morning we also disturbed a *Heliothis peltigera* Schiff and a *Synthymia fixa* F.=*Metoptria monogramma* Schiff. Several hairy brownish caterpillars were noticed on all sorts of plants but mostly on the *Teucrium fruticans*. We succeeded in breeding a few which turned out to be *Amata marjana* Stdr. We had more rain that afternoon and evening.

Thursday the 10th was warm and sunny and again we collected in the same area being encouraged by what we took on the previous day in such a short time. We took the same species as on the 9th as well as *Colias crocea* Fourc., *Coenonympha pamphilus* L., *Pararge aegeria* L. and *Vanessa atalanta* L. Several *Macroglossum stellaterum* L. were also on the wing following one direction. At 1.30 p.m. we had to pack up as the weather became very dull and rather cold.

We were both eager to take the *Anthocaris damone* and the *Z. hysipyle*, so on Friday we hired a car and Henning Hesselbarth drove us to Zafferana on Mt. Etna, passing through Giarre. We were shocked when we got there to see that it was in the grip of winter . . . only dry leaves from last autumn covered the ground, and just a few species of ferns and *Aristolochia rotunda*, the foodplant of *Zerynthia*, were just a few inches above the ground. One *Plusia gamma* L. was seen in that area, however, *Pieris brassicae*, *A. cardamines* and *M. stellaterum* were noticed further down on the main road.

On our return from Zafferana we chose a different route through Piedimonte and the Valle Dell'Annunziata where we took *Papilio machaon* L., *Lycaena phlaeas* L., *P. napi*, *Leptidia sinapia* L., *C. crocea*,

P. aegeria and *Glaucopsyche alexis* Poda. Here Henning joined us in the hunt making use of the spare net. This was a pleasant drive under a clear sky; we had the chance to chat a bit with an inquisitive farmer who after all was so generous in offering us a basketful of first-class lemons which we most heartily accepted.

Saturday the 12th was an excellent day, warm and sunny. We started early towards Monte Ziretto, an hour-and-a-half hard walk through a winding road and hundreds of steps; however, along one side of the road many different species of wild flowers were an attraction to several butterflies, mostly *A. cardamines* and *G. alexis* with a sprinkling of Whites and not forgetting *V. cardui*. To our surprise, we took as we went along, *Libythea celtis* Fuessl., a species we never expected to see or take.

We reached our collecting ground, some 400 metres above sea-level, by 9.30 a.m. In this locality we noticed a different kind of flora to that of Castel Mola, mostly *Scrophularia peregrina*, *Antirrhinum majus*, *Convolvulus althaeoides*, *Pisum elatius*, *Muscari comosum*, *Asphodelus racemosus* and *Fistulosus*, *Linaria triphylla*, *Tordylium apulum* and *Gladiolus communis*. Here we still increased our bag by taking more *P. napi*, more *E. ausonia* and *P. manni*, and we saw again *Z. hysipyle* but this time netting it as well. The sun was very hot that morning and we were very thirsty; a kind farmer soon quenched our thirst by offering us a few juicy oranges which he was just picking. We returned to Taormina very tired by 4 p.m. ready for a cup of tea and a good wash.

The last day of our collecting was Sunday the 13th. We again explored Monte Ziretto but this time we went higher up in search of the *Z. hysipyle* which we found flying in the wheat-sown fields. New species were taken again including *Carcharodus alceae* L., *Lycaenopsis argiolus* L., and *Polygonia c-album* L. We came across only one moth . . . *Nomophila noctuella* Schiff. At 2.00 p.m. we decided to go back as menacing clouds soon started to appear. When we were halfway and still with the nets under our arms we were noticed by a lady and her two daughters who were spending the day in their small country-house. They wanted to know what we were after, and seeing us perspiring, the kind lady offered us a glass of home-made wine from the stock she stored in a cupboard. She did not fill the glasses saying: "This wine is too strong for you and you still have to walk!" We enjoyed such a cool drink and we felt very grateful to her. Before we left we wished her the best of luck and a much greater crop of grapes this autumn.

Thus ended our first collecting trip together in Sicily. May we have more of such trips in the years to come.

Early on Monday morning, April the 14th, we were both at Catania Airport, this time looking in different directions, one to the North and the other to the South. Later in the day, the Hesselbarths landed in a heavy snow-storm at Stuttgart Airport and at Valletta Luqa Airport swept by gusts of strong wind, a disappointing contrast after the mild days in Sicily.

LIST OF DIFFERENT SPECIES TAKEN

<i>Papilio machaon sphyrus</i> Hb.	<i>Anthocaris cardamines turritiferens</i>
<i>Zerynthia hysipyle latevittata</i> Vrtý.	Vrtý.
<i>Leptidia sinapis sartha</i> Ruhl.	

<i>Euchloe ausonia romana</i> Calberia	<i>Polygonia c-album</i> L.
or <i>Euchloe orientalis kruegeri</i>	<i>Pararge megera australis</i> Vrtý.
Pincitore Marott.	<i>Pararge aegeria</i> L.
<i>Pieris mannii todaroana</i> Pincit.	<i>Libythea celtis</i> Fuessl.
<i>Pieris brassicae</i> L.	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> L.
<i>Pieris rapae</i> L.	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> L.
<i>Pieris napi meridionalis</i> Heyne.	<i>Lacaenopsis argiolus</i> L.
<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i> L.	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i> Poda.
<i>Colias crocea</i> Fourc.	<i>Cupido minimus trinacriae</i> Vrtý.
<i>Vanessa cardui</i> L.	<i>Carcharodus alceae australis</i> Zell.
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i> L.	

REFERENCES

- Mariani Mario, 1939. Fauna Lepidopterorum Siciliae—*Mem. Soc. Ent. Ital.*, **17**: 129-187.
- Verity, Ruggiero, 1940-53. Le Farfalle Diurne D'Italia Vol. I-V.
- Forster, Walter & Theodor Wohlfahrt, 1955. Die Schmetterlinge Mitteleuropas. Vol. II. Stuttgart.
- Sichel, Giovanni, 1955. Primo Contributo alla conoscenza dei Ropaloceri della zona montana etnea—Atti della Accademia Gioenia di Scienze Naturali in Catania—Serie VI, Vol. X.
- Eichel, Giovanni, 1963. Fragmenta Entomologica, Vol. IV, Fasc. 5.
- Bretherton, R. F., 1965. Sampling the Butterflies of Sicily. *Ent. Record*, **77**: 168-176.
- Greenwood, J. A. C., 1968. Brief Visits to Austria, Malta and Sicily in 1967. *Ent. Record*, **80**: 29-32.
- Gerhard Hesselbarth, D457 Quakenbrück,
Theis Str. 24, W. Germany. Anthony Valletta, 257, Msida Str.,
B'Kara, Malta G.C.

Eriozone syrphoides Fallén (Diptera, Syrphidae) in North Wales A new British species and genus

By PETER CROW

The study of the British Diptera, which I took up three years ago and to which I am now much attached, has turned out to be most interesting, healthful and rewarding. It has opened up a new avenue of entomological thought too, which I find to be most stimulating.

Readers will have read recently of my finding our rarest Therevid fly in Windsor Forest in 1967, and in 1968 I had the great pleasure of taking on the 28th August at Llan Ffestiniog in Merioneth a large and handsome Hover fly, *Eriozone syrphoides* which, so far as I can trace, is the first record for Great Britain. The insect is a male specimen and the genus is new to these islands too. At the time I was busy looking for lepidopterous larvae and my attention was caught by this fly, which was sitting on a flower of the Devil's Bit Scabious, *Succisa pratensis* Moench, about twenty yards away. Something told me I must not miss this from the way it was sitting on the flower and fortunately I netted it in spite of my intense excitement. From the plate it will be seen that the fly is a large one and has a superficial resemblance at a distance to that handsome Syrphid *Volucella bombylans* L.

From the researches made of the known occurrence of the creature in Europe I have found that Professor Dr. Pius Sack has stated that